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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Theraneis vittata Spinola, 1837 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Largidae): First record from Argentina

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ABSTRACT: The present note reports the first record of the genus and species *Theraneis vitatta* Spinola, 1837 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Largidae: Larginae) from Moconá, Misiones province, Argentina. This record brings the number of reported genera from Argentina to five, with a total of 12 species.

The Largidae belongs to the superfamily Pyrrhocoroidea and are present in all biogeographical regions of the world, although they are more diverse and abundant in tropical and subtropical areas. The family is divided into two subfamilies: Larginae in the New World and Physopeltinae in the Old World (Schaefer 2000; Cassis and Gross 2002; Henry 1997, 2009). There are about 120 species known from the New World, distributed in 13 genera.

The knowledge about the diversity of this family in Argentina is scarce. The limited works dealing with the whole family (including Pyrrhocoridae) are those of Berg (1878) and Pennington (1921). The diversity and distribution is known mainly by isolated works dealing with systematic aspects (Brailovsky 1989; Coscarón and Dellapé 2006), regional listings (Hayward 1942, 1960; Viana and Williner 1972, 1978; Quintanilla *et al.* 1975-1976, 1981; Carpintero *et al.* 2006) and agricultural issues (Bosq 1937, 1940; Di Iorio 2004a, b). Dellapé and Melo (in press) presented a summary on morphology, biology and taxonomic history, citogenetic, phylogenetic, and agroeconomic importance, together with a diagnosis of all the genera and a key to the species recorded from Argentina; they also included a systematic catalog for Argentina, with host plants of each species.

Up to now four genera and 11 species of Largidae have been recorded from Argentina: *Largus* Hahn (seven species), *Acinocoris* Hahn (two species), *Thaumastaneis* Kirkaldy and Edwards (one species), and *Rosaphe* Kirkaldy and Edwards (one species).

The genus *Theraneis* Spinola with 21 known species is, after *Largus*, the most diverse genus of Larginae in America. The genus is distributed in southern Central America and throughout most of South America excepting the southernmost extreme; and is characterized by having the eyes protruding and semi-pedunculate, the buccula apically triangular, and the pronotal disk clearly bilobed with the anterolateral margin not carinate (Brailovsky and Barrera 2008).

Theraneis vittata was described by Spinola (1837) from Brazil; later Stål (1860) mentioned the species from Rio de Janeiro. After those works, Brailovsky (1991), and

FIGURE 1. *Theraneis vittata* Spinola, habitus.

Brailovsky and Barrera (2008) included the species in a generic key, but those are the only mentions of the species in any modern scientific paper.

The authors found a specimen of *T. vittata* when studying the Heteroptera collection at Instituto Miguel Lillo (IMLA, Tucumán, Argentina). The material studied corresponds to a female that was collected in Moconá, Misiones Province, during October 1982.

The Provincial Park Moconá (Parque Provincial Moconá) is located in the Departamento San Pedro and includes the National Natural Monument of Moconá Falls. This park occupies 999 ha of the Reserva de la Biósfera Yabotí and is destined to preserve the falls and the surrounding paranaense forest.

Theraneis vittata can be easily recognized using the anteriorly mentioned keys, and the most remarkable feature to identify the species is the longitudinally bi-striped corium, with the inner stripe creamy yellow and the external stripe shiny orange (Figure 1).

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